

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02695 222218Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00

COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 222135Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4309

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EWWT, EPAP, EMIN, EAGR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADA WEST COAST GRAIN LOADING SLOWDOWN AND GREAT LAKES
SHIPPING STRIKE

POUCHED ALL CONSUL IN CANADA

PASS AGRICULTURE

REF: (A) OTTAWA 2532 (B) OTTAWA 2458

1. CONTINUING CANADA GREAT LAKES SHIPPING STRIKE
DESCRIBED REFTEL (A) AND WEST COAST GRAIN HANDLING
SLOWDOWN CITED REFTEL (B) CONTINUES TO DELAY SHIPPING
PARTICULARLY CANADA'S GRAIN EXPORTS.

2. WEST COAST LABOR DISPUTE INVOLVING 600 MEMBERS OF
LOCAL 333 OF GRAIN WORKER'S UNION CAUSING SLOWDOWN
SINCE LATE JULY IN GRAIN TERMINALS OWNED BY SASKATCHEWAN
AND ALBERTA WHEAT POOLS, UNITED GRAIN GROWERS AND PIONEER
GRAIN CO. LTD. OTTO LANG, MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR
CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD, IS QUOTED IN PRSS TODAY THAT
HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SLOWDOWN IN WEST COAST GRAIN SHIPMENTS
ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE AND "IT DOESN'T HELP
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02695 222218Z

US TO HAVE GOOD CUSTOMERS".

3. MEDIATION REPORT IN APRIL RECOMMENDED TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT THAT WOULD ADD \$1.52 AN HOUR OVER TWO YEARS, PLUS COST OF LIVING INCREASES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO GRAIN HANDLERS' BASIC WAGE OF \$4.96 PER HOUR. UNION ACCEPTED BUT COMPANIES REJECTED AS EXCESSIVE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS THREATENED LEGISLATION TO FORCE COMPANIES TO ACCEPT. AT PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FEDERAL NEGOTIATORS AND GRAIN COMPANIES INVOLVED DEADLOCKED WITH ONLY AN AGREEMENT TO ANOTHER MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 26.

4. ASKED BY PRESS WHY GOC PUTTING SO MUCH EFFORT INTO WEST COAST DISPUTE WHEN GREAT LAKES STRIKE STOPPING GREATER VOLUME OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS, LABOR MINISTER JOHN MUNRO STATED GREAT LAKES DISPUTE WOULD NOT BE HELPED BY "NEGOTIATING IN GOLDFISH BOWL". MINISTER LANG STATED DISPUTES ARE AT DIFFERENT STAGES.

5. COMMENT: WHILE BOTH MINISTERS MUNRO AND LANG REAFFIRM THEIR INTENTIONS TO LEGISLATE END TO WEST COAST GRAIN HANDLERS STRIKE ON BASIS MEDIATOR'S REPORT, RECALLING PARLIAMENT (DUE TO RECONVENE SEPTEMBER 30) WOULD BE ONLY A LAST RESORT.
PORTER

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